

### **'Redeployment'**

**By Sam Farr, Member of Congress**

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Shock and awe. Mission accomplished. Stay the course.

These little nuggets of wisdom--offered up by President Bush over the past several years--have come to symbolize not only the failed war in Iraq, but also the dreadful manner in which the administration has conducted itself.

No one can argue that the president isn't engaged in the war. The problem is that he's so engaged, he's lost the perspective that is so important to his position. He has determined that sound bites can stand in for policy. He has clearly missed what the American people see so clearly: it's time to bring our soldiers home.

Last week, the House voted on the "Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act." That piece of legislation instructs the redeployment of troops from Iraq to begin within four months of enactment and to conclude by April 2008.

I would prefer a more immediate end date for withdrawal, but I am pleased that Congress is holding the administration accountable for its dreadful performance. The Democrats are saying no to more open ended commitments, no to more surges, and no to more deaths of our servicemen and women.

President Bush and his minions have had more than enough time. Too much blood has been needlessly spilled, along with hundreds of billions of dollars. The bottom line: Iraq is in the midst of a civil war. Our troops are viewed by many Iraqis as occupiers, and we have provided little incentive for the Iraqis to take control of their own destiny.

The administration has &quot;stayed the course&quot; with its hopes for military success. And their time is over. It's clear to Congress and it's clear to Americans that the solution to the disaster in Iraq must be diplomatic. We must again engage our allies and Iraq's neighbors to search for diplomatic solutions.

The president must realize that it's time to quit our doomed role as civil war referee. The president erroneously claimed national security as his incentive to invade Iraq. Ironically, his blunder has put us in far greater peril.

Congress voted in favor of the Redeployment Act last week, and I hope that the message finally arrives at the White House: end this war and end it now. Bring our troops home. And do it as soon as possible.